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United States Senate

April 11, 1977

Respectfully referred to:

Congressional Liaison
Department of State

Letter From:
Pastor Fred A. Berchtold
Northlake United Methodist Church
151 East White hall,
Northlake, Illinois 60164

Because of the desire of this office to be responsive to all inquiries and communications, your consideration of the attached is requested. Your findings and views, in duplicate form, along with return of the enclosure, will be appreciated by

Office of Senator Stevenson
456 Old Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

NEH ATTN: LYNN HIESTAND U.S.S.

Form #2

ACTION

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
1977 APR 12 AM 10 51
FADRC
DOCUMENT ANALYSIS

RE: Concern Regarding Kim Dae Jung and other political prisoners in S. Korea.

From: Fred A. Berchtold (2)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, A/GDS/MR
REVIEWED BY HT DATE 8/10/82
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Northlake United Methodist Church

151 East Whitehall, Northlake, Illinois 60164 - (312) 562-6464

March 24, 1977

The Honorable Adlai Stevenson
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Stevenson,

March 1 marked the anniversary of the imprisonment of 18 of South Korea's most prominent religious and political leaders for simply urging democratic reforms in their government and economic structure. Ten of them are still in solitary confinement with no heat in the prisons. With such and other recently publicized actions of the South Korean government, I have to wonder if our soldiers who died in the Korean War did not die in vain.

As a religious leader in your state, I am asking, on behalf of my congregation, for your help in finding out about the welfare of Mr. Kim Dae-jung, the leader of the Korean political opposition. I understand he has been ill and without proper treatment for several months. Because of their age, (their all being in their seventies) we are also concerned about the condition of Yun Po-sun, 79, Hahn Suk-hon, 75, Chung Il-hyong, 72, and Yun Ban-woong, 76. I would greatly appreciate it if you could get us some information on their condition.

Now that our laws call for the ending of military aid to repressive governments (Security Assistance Bill, Sect. 502B, 1976-1977), I urge you to note the repressiveness of the South Korean government and to vote a halt to such massive military aid to that country. As a taxpayer, I do not want my money spent keeping people like Mr. Kim and these other religious and political leaders in prison.

While I support our President's speaking out about repression in Russia and Eastern Europe, our government has the possibility, not only of speaking against, but also of taking concrete actions against such nations as Korea, the Philippines, Chili and Brazil who are systematically denying the basic human rights of countless numbers of persons. I urge you to support action severely cutting back and even eliminating the massive economic and especially the military aid with which our nation supports these repressive regimes.

I am interested in hearing your position on how our government should best deal with the matter of the denial of basic human rights in the countries we are financially supporting.

Sincerely yours,

Fred A Berchtold

Fred A. Berchtold
(Pastor)